

Minutes of the March 4, 2013 City Council Meeting

The March 4, 2013, meeting of the Good Thunder city council was called to order, at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Robert Anderson. The meeting convened in council chambers located at 130 Ewing Court, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Council members present, Kim Hernandez; Kenton Giese; Sarah Karels; Arlen Ostermann and Robert Anderson. Others in attendance: Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator; Jeffrey Marx, Police Chief; Cheryl Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve the agenda as distributed and submitted. Council member Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kenton Giese made a motion to approve the February 4, 2013, city council minutes with the noted correction. Council member Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kenton Giese informed the council that he had researched LED/solar powered lights for the concession stand building and found them to range from \$95 - \$150 per light for 10,000 hours of life. Discussion followed regarding strength of lights needed, distance of lighted area etc.

Council member, Kim Hernandez, informed the council that she, had spoken to Dick's Locker and GT Market, and Sarah Karels had spoken to Thunder Restaurant and the three businesses are in support of the "Yard of the Month" program. Jen Frank, Thunder Restaurant indicated that she would consider donating a "dinner for two" gift certificate in support of this program. The city would give the monthly winner \$25 in Thunder Bucks to be used at these businesses. Ms. Hernandez provided information on a double sided sign, 18" x 24" with steel frame, for placement in the monthly winner's front yard. The cost for such a sign is \$65. The "Yard of the Month" program would be held from May-October.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to proceed with the "Yard of the Month" program, with the city giving \$25, in Thunder Bucks, per month to the winner. The sign is to be purchased as presented. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hernandez stated that the businesses would like information placed in the city newsletter promoting their business. She will obtain this information and provide it to Clerk-Treasurer Barnard for the April/Spring newsletter.

Councilor Sarah Karels suggested that council members tour the city and notify Police Chief Marx of nuisance property that they may see.

Councilor Giese stated a concern that has been brought to his attention regarding the city office being closed when someone has driven from Mankato to Good Thunder. He was informed that notices of closings are posted on the door and phone messages indicate

closings. Discussion followed. Citizens must remember that banking now is being done in Mankato, training is ongoing, and that staff does have vacation time, etc. It was decided to state in the newsletter that citizens should call ahead and make sure that city hall is open if they are in need of something at city hall. Another concern expressed was water main breaks. It was explained that if such a break occurs notification is handled as best as possible. Councilor Karels stated that she has even informed the school, restaurant etc. if a repair is being made. Citizens usually call city hall and Clerk-Treasurer Barnard explains the situation to them and a time frame of when the break is estimated to be repaired.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion to approve time sheets for the payroll periods of 2-2-2013 thru 2-16-2013 and 2-16-2013 thru 3-2-2012. Councilor Kim Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann questioned if other council members had been questioned as to why flags were not displayed on President's Day. Mayor Anderson had been and Clerk-Treasurer Barnard has provided him, and city maintenance, with a calendar of when flags are to be displayed so that this does not happen in the future.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to approve Zoning Permit, GT-01-2013, 245 Ewing Street, concrete driveway-decorative stamped concrete. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kenton Giese made a motion to table Zoning Permit, GT-02-13, 301 Main Street, garage, until Zoning Administrator; Jerry Birr has time to review the permit. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Severns, Water/Wastewater Operator, was present to update the council on information for the water and wastewater systems. Their Well completed their annual inspection on 12-7-2012. Severns explained that they recommend that the main pump be pulled every seven years. The last time the main pump was pulled was in 2003. Severns recommended that this pump be pulled and inspected this summer. The estimated cost for this type of maintenance is \$10,000 and is usually completed in one day. Discussion followed with the recommendation that Severns obtain an estimate for this maintenance.

Mr. Severns informed the council that the water tower tank had been inspected, with coating installed on the tank, several years ago. This inspection will be completed by Central Tank and be scheduled for this summer.

Mr. Severns informed the council that Electric Pump inspected the pumps at the lagoon site and the pumps had rags in them as there is no screen capability. Pump #2 had a little milky oil and Electric Pump is suggesting that this pump be replaced, but Mr. Severns is not in agreement. The council was informed that there is some wear on Pump 1.

The council was informed that Amy Lurch, Minnesota Department of Health, provided an on-site inspection of the city's water system. Mr. Severns informed the council that all paperwork has been completed properly with no issues. Treatment: Requirements or Recommendations:

- The water treatment plant should be supplied with dehumidification equipment to prevent corrosion on the filter structure and electrical equipment.
- Consideration should be given to providing the backwash sump with a grate or other protection to prevent any potential falls.
- Containers holding hydrofluosilicic acid be labeled, sealed as air tight as possible and vented to the outside to minimize the effect of the acid fumes.
- The filter aeration system should be inspected periodically to ensure the structural integrity of the housing and screening. The inlet and outlet screen should be 24-mesh screen for protection from insects.

Water Storage: Requirements or Recommendations:

- The average daily usage exceeds the guidelines of providing a minimum of one day water storage capacity. It is recommended that a study be conducted to determine the adequacy of the system and the possible need for increased water storage.
- The water tower overflow should be brought down to an elevation between 12 and 24 inches above the ground surface and discharge over a drainage structure or splash plate.
- The overflow shall open downward and be screen with a four mesh non-corrodible screen or mechanical device, such as a flap valve or duckbill valve, to keep out animals or insects.

Mr. Severns also informed the council that a sign should be placed where bulk water is purchased, by the city shop that reads: No chemicals allowed on this site. And that a second sign should be considered that reads: Due to the potential of contamination on the hose/pipe extension, the water from this site should not be considered safe for human consumption.

Mr. Severns also stated that he had received notification from Teresa Roth, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The city was again on the annual sewer restriction update notice submitted to the Minnesota Legislature as one of the municipalities with report flow that exceeds design flow into the treatment ponds. The city exceeds the treatment pond design by 147.1%. One of the factors that is calculated into this percentage is water that is lost during water main breaks which have previously occurred.

Severns stated that the fire department should keep track of the number of gallons they use annually. Fire Chief Klammer was present and indicated that the department will begin reporting their water usage. The council questioned the number of water meters not working and the need for getting these repaired. City Maintenance, Jerry Birr, does have a listing of meters needing replacement. The council discussed hiring a plumber to repair these meters. Councilor Hernandez will contact Spear Plumbing and One Guy Plumbing for such meter repair.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion approving the police department's time sheets as presented. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jeffrey Marx, reported that there were twenty-eight (28) calls for service during the month of February 2013.

A Residential Rental Agreement had been developed by Police Chief Marx and Clerk-Treasurer Barnard for council consideration. This agreement is being developed so that rental property is maintained by the owner and that property owners next to rental property will be aware that certain objectives will be maintained. It is a document that will protect the upkeep of rental property. Discussion followed. The council was made aware that this is something that needs to be reviewed by the city attorney and make take several months to complete. An application and fee needs to also be developed at this time. The council felt that it is a policy that is worthwhile and encouraged staff to continue working with the city attorney on developing this policy.

Councilor Sarah Karels made a motion approving the Good Thunder Police Department's manual as of March 4, 2013. Councilor Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Marx thanked Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, for inviting him to attend a meeting and for helping the Good Thunder police department receive a "free" Nebulus Emergency Floatation Device which can be used in the rescue of ice and water rescue situations.

Fire Chief, Phil Klammer, informed the council that such rafts cost \$525 each and the Good Thunder fire department, Mapleton fire department, and Blue Earth County each received such a raft as a presenter attending a meeting and gave the rafts to the above departments. Mr. Klammer stated that state patrol cars in the Twin Cities areas carry such equipment in their vehicles for specific rescue calls. Recharging of such rafts is \$195. Fire Chief Klammer reported that there were three (3) medical calls for the month of February 2013. The fire department received training from Northwest Gas Company, Fire School was held March 1 & 2 and on March 5 there will be ISO training. The council was also updated on general repairs for the fire department.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Barnard, presented new applications that she had developed for the Zoning Permit Application, Conditional Use Application and Variance Permit Application. The council felt that these applications were professional and informative. Ms. Barnard informed the council that after consideration she had decided that she will not be attending the Minnesota Clerk's and Finance Officers Conference in March.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion approving the bills as presented and distributed. Council Arlen Ostermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kim Hernandez made a motion that the city pays the single coverage health insurance policy for Police Chief Jeffrey Marx directly to his insurance company quarterly beginning April 2013. Councilor Sarah Karels seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed ideas and suggestions for the concession stand.

Councilor Arlen Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Councilor Kenton Giese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl A. Barnard, Clerk-Treasurer